The Dangerous Present,

OR, AN

ACCOUNT

Of a Barbarous Design'd PLOT against the

Right Hon. the Lord High Treasurer;

By a Box being sent and directed to his Lordship, wherein was Three Pistols loaded with a Slug and Bullet, and contriv'd so Artificially, that at the opening they should go off several ways to do Execution; but by God's Providence, at the opening the same, by cutting all the Cords at once, it miss'd of its Effect, to the great Satisfaction of all Lovers of their Queen and Country.

12. Novemb. 1712.

Regist'er'd in the Stamp-Office pursuant to Act of Parliament.

IF many other wicked Contrivances before, had not assur'd us of the malicious and dangerous Designs of the restless Spirited *Whigs*, this alone wou'd be sufficient. They pretend to Love Her Majesty, and yet Hate and Persecute to their utmost Power, all those that she is pleas'd to Favour, and are truely in Her Intrest, and of the Church of *England*; but particularly against the present Lord *Treasurer*, whose indefatigable Zeal and Application for Her Majesty's Good and that of his Country.

We may remember the barbarous Design of that Miscreant *Guiscard*, no doubt fomented by a Party who Envy his Lordships Greatness, and look on him as the only Obstacle to their pernicious Hopes: This was so near taking Effect, that it occasion'd Her Majesty a great deal of Concern, as well as all honest Men.

But his Lordship, by God's Blessing, recovering, preserv'd as an Ornament for his Country, another Design was set on foot to work their Mischief, and that was under pretence of burning the *Pope*, the *Devil*, and the *Pretender*, on Queen *Elizabeth*'s Birth-day last; under the umbrage of which they design'd to have Mobb'd his House, and those of several others in Her Majesty's Favour; and if so, we may reasonably guess what Treatment his Lordship would have met with, had he fallen into their Hands.

This Design being prevented by the seizing of their Tools, and keeping out the Train'd-Bands to prevent Riots, they were not a little vext and angry at their Disappointment, and in their Rage fell to practising the most unspeakable Barbarities, under the Name of *Mohocks*: This was under pretence of Raking, but something else was at the bottom, and we remember *One* who paid dear for his Frolick.

I need not mention their under-hand Practices of obstructing the Measures of Peace, which alone at present can make this Nation Happy, and

of

of blackening the Miniſters who are tranſacting it with all the moſt odious Calumnies: And Scandalouſly and Falſely Suggeſting that they are bringing in the Pretender, when nothing is further from their Hearts, and all the ſecureſt Methods poſſible taken by the Treaty, to have him Excluded for ever.

Not being able to ſucceed in any of theſe Deſings hitherto, we need not Wonder that ſuch a reſtleſs and turbulent Faction are ſtill contriving the moſt ſtrange and dangerous Projects; but it is to be hoped that Providence ſometime or other will diſcover them, to their utter Confuſion and Diſgrace, by bringing them to a Condign Puniſhment, for their Treaſons and Treachery, of which the following Story is one lively Inſtance.

Tho' the Bottom of it is not yet Diſcover'd, yet the Matter is ſo well known as that it is in every Bodys Mouth, and need not be doubted when it is ſpoke by Perſons of undoubted Credit, and who have his Lordſhips Good ſo much at Heart.

On *Friday* laſt, or as ſome ſay on *Tueſday* laſt, a Porter came with a Box to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Oxford*'s Houſe in *York-Buildings*, on which were Directions for his Lordſhip, the Box being very ſtrong, and Corded down very faſt.

The Meſſenger that brought it being help'd down, askt (as it is ſaid) if his Lordſhip was

at Home, for he was bid to deliver it to himself, and being told he was at Home, the Box was carried up to his Lordships Chamber, and the Bearer went away.

Now it happened that Dr. *Swift*, a Person much esteemed by his Lordship, was accidentally there when the Box was brought up, which his Lordship seeing, thought it something strange, nor could he guess from whom such a Present should come, yet concluded to have it open'd, whereupon he called for a Servant to do it; but as the Story goes, Dr. *Swift* being present, offered his Service for the Purpose before the Footman could come up; and having a Knife, he did not stand to open it leisurely as a Servant would have done, but cut all the Cords at once, by which the Strings that were fastened to the Triggers of the Pistols, to make them go off, proved useless, and prevented the Design. But if the Box had been uncorded, and the Cords drawn leisurely, would have pulled those Strings, and so let the Triggers down; so that all the Three Pistols would have gone off at once; which were so Artificially placed, that there would heve been no way to escape for those that stood by, let them have stood which way they would, *being* each loaded with a *Slug* and a *Bullet*; and as some report, also a considerable quantity of Gun-Powder was put in the *Box*, to make their work more sure.

Thus